

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A frame joint structure comprising:
 - a first frame member ~~of being~~ U-shaped in cross section and having a first sidewall, a second sidewall, and a bottom wall and defining an opening;
 - a second frame member, similar to the first frame member, ~~and being of U-shaped in cross section and defining having~~ an opening, said second frame member having an end portion connected to at least one of the first and second sidewalls ~~sidewall and the second sidewall~~ of the first frame member;
 - a reinforcing member extending into the first frame member and the second frame member by predetermined lengths at a joint of the first frame member and the second frame member;
 - a plate member closing the openings of the first and second frame members so as to form closed cross sections; and
 - a foamed resin filling spaces defined by the plate member, the first and second frame members and the reinforcing member.
2. (Currently Amended) The A-joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is generally T-shaped~~has a T-shape as viewed in top plan.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The A-joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member is generally L-shaped~~has an L-shape as viewed in top plan.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The A-joint structure according to claim 1, wherein the plate member, and the first frame member, and the second frame members-member are made from a first metal material while the different from a metal material from which the reinforcing member is made from a second metal material, said first metal material being different than said second metal material.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~joining method~~ for forming of a frame joint structure, comprising the steps of:

~~temporarily securing by welding an end portion of a second frame member of a U-shaped cross section having an opening to a first frame member of a U-shaped cross section having an opening so as to temporarily secure said first and second frame members together;~~

mounting a foam resin to a reinforcing member to be extended by predetermined lengths into the first frame member and the second frame member at a temporarily welded joint;

setting the reinforcing member mounted with the foam resin within the first frame member and within the second frame member;

closing the openings of the first and second frame members by a plate member so that the frame members have closed cross sections; and

heating and foaming the foam resin within the first and second frame members.

6. (Currently Amended) The frame joint structure forming method A-joining method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of applying a coat of paint to a surface of the plate member after the closed cross-section forming step, wherein the heat foaming step comprises heat drying of the applied paint.